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COUNTRY

Madagascar

SUBJECT

Political; Sociological - Strikes, political
prisoners

HOW

HOW
PUBLISHED

Daily newspaper

DATE DIST. 30 Apr 1953

WHERE

PUBLISHED

Paris

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE _____

PUBLISHED

28 Feb, 5 Mar 1953

LANGUAGE

French

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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MADAGASCAN LABOR TROUBLES;
LIST OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

STRIKES IN MADAGASCAR -- Paris, L'Humanite, 5 Mar 53

Workers in Diego Suarez have begun their fight for wage increases. Despite strict repression, including the presence of armed forces from Tananarive, the workers of the Eaux et Electricite de Madagascar (Water and Electric Power Company of Madagascar) and the Compagnie Maritime de l'Afrique Orientale (Maritime Company of East Africa) have obtained a general 15-percent wage increase.

On 4 February 1953, a strike was called at the Arsenal. All the workers there, including Madagascans, Comoro Islanders, Reunion Islanders, and Frenchmen, are fighting side by side, despite pressures and maneuvers to divide them.

The workers of Batiment, a French-Madagascan company, have been on strike since 9 February 1953 in support of their comrades at the Arsenal. Despite official prohibition, many workers attended a meeting and group demonstration on 19 February 1953.

At Majunga, after numerous petitions for wage increases had been signed by workers from Madagascar and the Comoro Islands, the administration was obliged to call a meeting of the arbitration commission. Despite the treachery of the leaders of the Confédération Française des Travailleurs Chrétiens (French Confederation of Christian Workers), who voted with the employers, the minimum wage was increased by 33 francs per day.

MADAGASCAN POLITICAL PRISONERS -- Paris, L'Humanite, 28 Feb 53

Rakoto Louis, Madagascan patriot, died in the Nosy Lava prison on 12 January 1953. He had been imprisoned there since the events of 1947.

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ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI	

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All female political prisoners are now at the Anjanamasina prison, near Tananarive, where conditions are exceptionally bad. These prisoners include Charline Razanamalala, widowed mother of several children; Razanabary, an old woman, whose only son is in prison at Nosy Be; Baovola; Martine Zaramary; and Suzanne Inoro, all natives of the east coast. The two last named, although both only about 20 years old, have already spent 6 years in prison.

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